



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Ralph A. Dungan
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT : U. S. Press Articles

1. In accordance with your request for some examples of press articles prejudicial to the national security and for recommendations to assist in the establishment of a program which would help remedy this situation, attached are representative press releases considered to be detrimental to the intelligence collection efforts and to the national security of the United States.

2. On the matter of recommendations, it is suggested that the United States Government and public information media representatives jointly develop agreed upon policies and procedures necessary to protect information which, if published, would be detrimental to the security of the United States. Points of consideration in developing such procedures are:

a. A joint understanding between the Government and the press of the nature of intelligence sources and methods and their relationship to the national security.

b. The formation of a committee of senior press representatives to receive background briefings on sensitive and classified matters to assist them in deciding on what press coverage should be given to information which might possibly affect the national security.

c. An examination of United States Government procedures and regulations related to the official release of information to the public press. Are they understood and satisfactory to the press?

d. The establishment of categories of intelligence and defense information which would be voluntarily referred by the public press to appropriate components of the Government for assessment of possible affect on the national security.

e. The control of "morgue" newspaper articles previously agreed upon to be damaging to the national interest.

3. It is suggested that discussions with the press on these matters be "off the record" since use of these examples publicly would tend to confirm the validity of their content. The recommendations in paragraph two have not been studied in detail and possibly require further exploration from both a security and legal standpoint.

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Attachment:
Press Releases

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5 MAY 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Ralph A. Dungan
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

SUBJECT: U. S. Press Articles

1. In accordance with your request, herewith are some excerpts of press articles furnished by our security people which are considered to have affected the national security interest.

2. It is suggested that discussions with the press on these matters be "off the record" since further publicity would tend to confirm the validity of their content.

SIGNED

ALLEN V. DULLES
Director

Attachments:
Press Releases

OS:PhySD/SB: [] kpm

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - DCI - w/attach.

1 - DDCI

① - ER via Reading

2 - SB/OS

1 - D/Sec

1 - DD/S

1 - Col. Dungan